

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /080 W

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R 041124Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7123

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 7185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WA, SHUM, PFOR, TZ, AZ

SUBJECT: DETAINED SWAPO DISSIDENTS

REF: STATE 254553

1. IN NOV. 3 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, WEST AFRICAN SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE HISHONGWA DISCUSSED STATUS OF SHIPANGA AND OTHER DISSIDENTS. HE TOOK PAINS TO MINIMIZE SEVERITY OF OFFENSES COMMITTED BY SHIPANGA'S FOLLOWERS, SAYING THEY HAD MOSTLY BEEN "MIS-LED" OR HAD HAD LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES (OVER LACK OF PROVISIONS, ETC.). HE SAID "THOUSANDS" HAD BEEN RELEASED AND HAD RETURNED TO "EASTERN FRONT." BY CONTRAST WITH LATE AUGUST, WHEN HISHONGWA ANTICIPATED CONVENING OF "MILITARY TRIBUNALS" TO TRY PRINCIPAL DISSIDENTS (DAKAR A-106), HE NOW SEEMED UNCERTAIN WHAT, IF ANY, ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST FEW REMAINING DETAINEES INCLUDING SHIPANGA. HISHONGWA PROFESSES TO BE CLOSELY ACQUAINTED WITH SHIKOMBA (FOR WHOM HE FORMERLY WORKED IN SWAPO DAR ES SALAAM OFFICE) AND EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN CURRENT WELFARE OF DETAINEES, THOUGH HE DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS AND ASSERTED THAT THEY WERE BEING HELD AT SWAPO'S REQUEST AND WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO SWAPO IF ORGANIZATION WERE TO SO REQUEST.

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2. HISHONGWA SAID THAT, IN ANY GENEVA CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA, SWAPO WOULD NOT OBJECT TO BEING SEATED ALONGSIDE OTHER BONAFIDE NAMIBIAN LIBERATION GROUPS, BUT WOULD INSIST THAT TRIBAL CHIEFS SIT ON SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE. HE SINGLED OUT KAPUWO FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM, SUGGESTING THAT SWAPO SUSPECTED LATTER'S TRAVELS WERE FINANCED BY CIA.

3. EMBOFF PROVIDED HISHONGWA WITH RECENT STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND GOVERNOR SCRANTON ON US POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. SENEGAL BEGAN OBSERVANCE OCT. 27 OF "NAMIBIA SOLIDARITY WEEK" CALLED FOR IN LAST JANUARY'S DAKAR CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA. EVENTS HAVE INCLUDED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND SEMINARS, CAPPED BY PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDED OVER BY SENEGALESE SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT KEBE MBAYE AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CABINET DIRECTOR YOUSSEPH SYLLA DESIGNED TO UNDERSCORE SENEGAL'S SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIANS "SUFFERING THE MORAL EXIGENCIES OF APARTHEID." HOWEVER, PICTURE OF CLOSE SENEGALESE COOPERATION WITH NAMIBIANS WAS TARNISHED SOMEWHAT BY FOREIGN MINISTRY'S FAILURE TO INVITE WEST AFRICAN SWAPON REPRESENTATIVE TO ADDRESS PRESS CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER IT HAD ALREADY BEGUN.
AGGREY

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